

REMARKS

The abstract and specification have been amended in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors contained therein. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter has been added.

Once again, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement as the apparatus claims 2-7 all require the structure necessary to perform the method of the present invention and the Examiner has not disclosed another process that the present apparatus claims could be used to perform. The apparatus claims of the present invention require structure to set a tensile of the polarizing film in a certain direction to be less than the tension of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the certain direction. This is an essential feature of method Claim 1 and, as such, it is respectfully submitted that apparatus claims 2-7 should not be separated from Claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The present invention, as defined by Claim 1, is directed to a method of molding a polarizing film comprising the steps of applying a colored polarizing film to a molding face of a mold, allowing the polarizing film to be sucked onto the molding face by vacuum suction to mold a colored concave and convex polarizing film, setting a tensile of the polarizing film in a certain direction to be less than a tension of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the certain direction, stretching the polarizing film at a position on a line with the diameter of the mold parallel with the certain direction less than at other positions to thereby allow the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching of the polarizing film is less to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction.

As discussed in the present specification, the present invention provides a method of forming a reference mark on a polarizing film during a process of molding the polarized film and can be used for large item small scale production of the polarizing film. By setting the tensile of the polarizing film in a certain direction to be less than a tension of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the certain direction, the polarized film is stretched at a position on a line of the diameter of the mold in parallel with a certain direction less than in other positions to thereby allow the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching of the polarized film is less to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

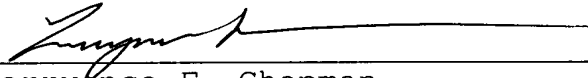
WO 99/54118 (WO '118) discloses a plant for the continuous production of polarizing lenses which comprises a coil polarizing film feeding station, a glass convex lens feeding station, a concave lens feeding station, an under vacuum film shaping station on spherical molds, a deposition and gluing outer convex lens station, a translation station for the pre-glued lenses, a deposition and gluing inner concave lens station, a lens separation and film cutting station and a palletisation station for the finished lens. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that page 11, lines 6-8, of this reference discloses setting a tensile of the polarizing film in a certain direction to be smaller than a tension of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the certain direction and page 6, lines 6-13, discloses the allowing of the stretching of the polarizing film at a position of a line of the diameter of the mold to be smaller than the stretching thereof in other positions, thereby allowing the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching is smaller to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction. Applicant has

extensively reviewed WO '118 and cannot find the disclosures that the Examiner has stated above.

At page 11, lines 6-8, of WO '118, the description merely states that proper tension is continuously provided to the polarizing film by the friction of the rolls 4 and 5. All this means is that the polarizing film is maintained at a predetermined tension by rolls 4 and 5. This reference does not disclose a tension in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the proper tension being kept and there is no disclosure with respect to the magnitude between the appropriate tension and the tension in the direction perpendicular to the direction of the certain tension, as being large or small with respect to each other. This reference also does not disclose the stretching of the polarized film at a position on a line of the diameter of the mold and parallel with a certain direction to be smaller than the stretching thereof at other positions to allow the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching of the polarizing film is small to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction. In fact, WO '118 requires a polarizing axis marking station to provide a mark to indicate the polarizing direction instead of the reference mark 12 in the description on page 10, lines 2-4. The presence of the polarizing axis marking station is to clarify, not to obtain a reference mark 12 in the polarizing direction in the process of vacuum suction while molding the film, and there is no disclosure in this reference with respect to setting the relation of the magnitude of the tension and the formation of the reference mark in the polarizing direction at a deeper colored portion. As such, the presently claimed invention clearly is patentably distinguishable over this reference.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the present application and to pass it to issue.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl: Replacement Abstract
Clean Substitute Specification
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